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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6790

BILL NUMBER: HB 1186

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 14, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Paramedic Licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown T

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Miller

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Licensing of Paramedics*- The bill provides for the licensing of paramedics by the Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC). (Current law provides for the certification of paramedics by the EMSC).

Respiratory Care Practitioners- The bill provides that certain provisions relating to the unlawful or unauthorized practice of medicine do not apply to respiratory care practitioners practicing respiratory care.

Study Commission Topic- The bill requires the Health Finance Commission to study during the 2012 legislative interim issues concerning the licensing of paramedics.

Conforming Changes- The bill makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensing of Paramedics*- The EMSC currently certifies paramedics and would likely be able to administer paramedic licensing within their existing level of resources. The EMSC is scheduled for six regular and six technical advisory committee meetings during CY 2012. Application forms would have to be changed to reflect licensing instead of certification. However, with the availability of forms online, changes would likely not result in large printings of hard copy application forms.

(Revised) *Study Commission Topic*- The Health Finance Study Commission would be able to study the topic of paramedic licensing within the scope of regular meetings of the Commission.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *Licensing of Paramedics*- The bill does not specify a fee for licensing paramedics. Therefore, independent administrative action by the EMSC would be necessary to establish a licensing fee. (The EMSC currently does not charge a fee for the *certification* of paramedics. Although, there is a late reinstatement fee of \$50.) The EMSC has statutory authority to establish a fee for the certification of EMS personnel under IC 16-31-3-12. The bill would allow a fee to be charged for licensing under this statute. Any fee revenue generated by licensing of paramedics would depend on the fee established and the number of persons applying for a license. Licensing revenue would be placed in the Emergency Medical Services Fund.

(Revised) *Class C Misdemeanor*- A person claiming to be licensed under the statute for paramedic services and is not licensed would commit a Class C misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Background Information- The Department of Homeland Security has record of approximately 3,000 paramedic certifications in Indiana. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports there were 5,680 EMTs and paramedics employed in Indiana during 2010.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Class C Misdemeanor*- A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: (Revised) *Class C Misdemeanor*- If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: EMSC under the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Mara Snyder, Indiana Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics OES Report, May 2010; 836 IAC 4-9-4.

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